

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**FISCAL NOTE**

**HB 905 - SB 1420**

March 9, 2023

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Effective September 1, 2023, creates one additional chancery court in the 19<sup>th</sup> judicial district and one additional trial court in each of the following judicial districts: 13<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Requires the Governor to appoint a person to serve as an additional judge or chancellor, until September 1, 2024. Requires the qualified voters of each respective district to elect a judge or chancellor for the created courts in the August 2024 general election to serve until September 1, 2030. At the August 2030 general election, and every eight years thereafter, requires the qualified voters of each respective district to elect a judge or chancellor for the created courts for the full eight-year term.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase State Expenditures – \$1,612,300/FY23-24  
\$1,766,800/FY24-25 and Subsequent Years**

Assumptions:

- The proposed legislation creates positions effective September 1, 2023, which is approximately 83.33 percent of FY23-24. As such, this analysis estimates 83.33 percent of the fiscal year impact will occur in FY23-24 and 100 percent will occur in FY24-25 and subsequent years.
- The proposed legislation creates five trial court judge or chancellor positions.
- The salary and benefits for each judge or chancellor position are estimated to be \$251,881 (\$204,600 salary + \$47,281 benefits).
- Additionally, each of these positions will require recurring funding for supplies, legal subscriptions, rent, etc. estimated to be \$33,800 per position.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. 16-2-505(c), upon the election of a judicial district judge, a secretary position is created for that judge. This analysis assumes the secretary will be hired upon the appointment of the judge by the Governor.
- The salary and benefits for each secretary position is estimated to be \$63,185 (\$47,900 + \$15,285 benefits).
- Additionally, each position will require recurring funding for travel estimated to be \$4,500 per position.
- The one-time increase in state expenditures in FY23-24 associated with each of the five created judge or chancellor positions is \$28,000 (\$18,000 furniture and office set up + \$10,000 for computer and online software).

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- The total increase in state expenditures in FY23-24 resulting from the proposed legislation is estimated to be \$1,612,299 [ $\{[(\$251,881 + \$33,800 + \$63,185 + \$4,500) \times 5] \times 83.33\% \} + (\$28,000 \times 5)$ ].
- The total increase in state expenditures in FY24-25 and subsequent fiscal years resulting from the proposed legislation is estimated to \$1,766,830 [ $(\$251,881 + \$33,800 + \$63,185 + \$4,500) \times 5$ ].
- District judge elections will be held during regularly-scheduled general elections; therefore, any fiscal impact to local government is estimated to be not significant.

## **CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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